AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended)   A network communication method, comprising:

identifying, for a communication session, an originator, and a participant, and a classification group to which the participant belongs;

establishing, by said originator and based on said classification group, a reciprocity rule for said communication session governing an ability of said participant to reply send a message to from said originator; and

conducting said communication session involving said originator and said participant based on said reciprocity rule, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said participant from sending a response message in reply to a message from said originator.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying further comprises identifying a plurality of participants and wherein said conducting further comprises involving said plurality of participants.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2, further comprising establishing a plurality of reciprocity rules.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying further comprises: selecting said participant from an address book.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said reciprocity rule permits said participant to send a response message to said originator.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said communication session is an Internet instant messenger session.

8. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying, by said originator, said reciprocity rule during said communication session.

9. (Currently amended)   A communication device operated by an originator of a communication session, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

identify, for said communication session, at least a first participant to communicate with said originator during said communication session and a classification group to which the participant belongs;

establish a reciprocity rule, by said originator and based on said classification group, for said communication session governing an ability of said at least first participant to send a message to said originator; and

conduct said communication session involving said originator and said at least first participant based on said reciprocity rule, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said at least first participant from replying to a message from said originator.

10.(Previously Presented) The communication device of claim 9, further comprising instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

modify, by said originator, said reciprocity rule during said communication session.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended)   The communication device of claim 9, wherein said reciprocity rule allows said at least first participant to reply to a message from said originator.

13. (Original)   The communication device of claim 9, further comprising:

a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one of: a messaging server, and a participant device.

14. (Original)   The communication device of claim 9, wherein said storage device further stores an address book containing a plurality of participant addresses.

15. (Currently amended)   A messaging system, comprising:
an originator device having a processor and a storage device, said storage device storing instructions adapted to:
        identify at least a first participant in a communication session and a classification group to which the at least first participant belongs;
        establish, by said originator device and based on said classification group, a reciprocity rule for said at least first participant for said communication session governing an ability of said at least first participant to send a message to said originator device;
        send at least a first message to said at least first participant in said communication session; and

a participant device having a processor and a storage device, said storage device storing instructions adapted to:

receive said at least first message; and

process a response to said at least first message based on said reciprocity rule, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said participant device from sending a response message <u>in reply</u> to <u>a message from</u> said originator device.

16. (Original)   The messaging system of claim 15, wherein said storage device of said originator device further stores instructions adapted to modify said reciprocity rule during said communication session.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original)   The messaging system of claim 15, wherein said reciprocity rule allows a response from said at least first participant.

19. (Currently amended) A computer-readable <u>hardware</u> medium having executable instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions to identify, for a first communication session, an originator<u>,</u> ~~and a~~ participant<u>, and a classification group to which the participant belongs</u>;

instructions to establish, by said originator <u>and based on said classification group</u>, a reciprocity rule for said communication session governing an ability of said participant to send a message to said originator; and

instructions to conduct said communication session involving said originator and said participant based on said reciprocity rule, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said participant from sending a response message <u>in reply</u> to <u>a message from</u> said originator.

20. (Currently amended)   A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving, from an originator, information identifying a plurality of participants in a communication session and a classification group to which each of the plurality of participants belong;

receiving, from said originator, reciprocity rule information for each of said plurality of participants, said reciprocity rule information governing an ability of each of said plurality of participants to send a message to said originator based on said classification group to which each of the plurality of participants belong;

forwarding a message from said originator to each of said plurality of participants; and

processing responses from each of said plurality of participants based on said reciprocity rule information, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said participant from sending a response message in reply to a message from said originator.

21. (Currently amended)   A network communication method, comprising;

identifying an originator, and at least a first participant, and a classification group to which the at least first participant belongs;

establishing, by said originator and based on said classification group to which the at least first participant belongs, reciprocity rules between said originator and said at least first participant governing an ability of said at least first participant to send a message to said originator; and

conducting a network communication between said originator and said at least first participant pursuant to said reciprocity rules, wherein said reciprocity rule prevents said at least first participant from sending a response message in reply to a message from said originator.